

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2267

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11471

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, EAGR, UR

SUBJECT: OBSERVATIONS REGARDING MININTER OF AGRICULTURE
POLYANSKIY

1. AT WEEKLY QUADRIPARTITE MEETING SEPTEMBER 20, FRG
AMBASSADOR SAHM MADE SOME INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS
REGARDING THE INTERPLAY WHICH TOOK PLACE BETWEEN KOSYGIN
AND POLYANSKIY DURING THE CALL OF FRG MINISTER OF AGRI-
CULTURE ERTL ON KOSYGIN ON SEPTEMBER 14. SAHM NOTED
THAT MOST OF THE MEETING WAS TAKEN UP WITH THE SUBJECT
OF AGRICULTURE, ABOUT WHICH KOSYGIN TALKED IN A MUCH
MORE DETAILED WAY THAN POLYANSKIY HAD IN HIS DISCUSSIONS
WITH ERTL. KOSYGIN WAS NOT VERY POLITE TO POLYANSKIY,
QUESTIONING AND, INDEED, CORRECTING POLYANSKIY'S
FIGURES ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. IN ADDITION, KOSYGIN
MADE SOME RATHER CRITICAL REMARKS ABOUT THE AGRICULTURAL
SCENE, SUGGESTING, FOR EXAMPLY, THAT NOT ENOUGH
ATTENTION WAS BEING DEVOTED TO THE MAINTENANCE OF FARM
MACHINERY WHICH OFTEN ENDS UP UNUSABLE AFTER SIX YEARS
OF OPERATION.

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2. IN ADDITION, AMBASSADOR SAHM THOUGHT IT RATHER ODD

THAT POLYANSKIY DECLINED TO ISSUE A JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON THE ERTL VISIT EVEN THOUGH THE SOVIETS HAD PROVIDED THE INITIAL DRAFT OF SUCH A DOCUMENT. IN GOING OVER THE SOVIET DRAFT, THE GERMAN SIDE HAD MADE THREE PORPOSALS: (A) THAT MENTION BE MADE OF AN INVITATION TO POLYANSKIY TO MAKE A RETURN VISIT TO THE FRG AND THAT THIS INVITATION HAD BEEN ACCEPTED; (B) THAT PRIORITY BE GIVEN TO THE CALL ON KOSYGIN IN REPORTING ERTL'S SCHEDULE AND ITINERARY; AND (C) THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES AGREED TO UNDERTAKE EXCHANGES IN THE AGRICULTURAL FIELD. THE GERMANS ASSUMED THAT POLYANSKIY DECLINED TO AGREE TO THE ISSUANCE OF THE COMMUNIQUE BECAUSE HE COULD NOT AT THIS TIME COMMIT HIMSELF TO A RETURN VISIT. ALSO, PERSONNEL IN POLYANSKIY'S MINISTRY WHO WORKED ON THE COMMUNIQUE INSISTED THAT ERTL'S MEETINGS WITH POLYANSKIY BE MENTIONED IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER, THUS GIVING POLYANSKIY PRIDE OF PLACE OVER KOSYGIN.

3. COMMENT: THESE OBSERVATIONS SEEM CONSISTENT WITH PREVIOUS REMARKS BY POLYANSKIY AND HIS WIFE (MOSCOW 11088) REGARDING CONCERN OVER POLYANSKIY'S FUTURE.

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